(b) if so, whether Government propose to transfer this subject under the State list; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Contamination of drinking water in Delhi

2634. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether gastroenteritis cases have been on the increase recently in Delhi due to contamination of drinking water by sewer lines of Municipal Corporation of Delhi, as reported in the Hindustan Times dated the 16th May, 1997;

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to ensure supply of uncontaminated water to residents of Delhi, especially during coming ..ny season;

(c) whether the Central Pollution Control Board has given any adverse report recently; and

(d) if so, what long-term strategy is being adopted to avoid recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU): (a) The Municipal Corporation of Delhi has intimated that there is no increase in gastroenteritics cases in Delhi. Against 34,728 cases reported from 1.1.96 to 12.07.96, only 12,542 cases have been reported from 1.1.97 to 12.07.97.

(b) The Delhi Water Supply Sewage Disposal Undertaking intimated that 6 zonal laborat situated at Wazirabad, Bhagi Okhla, Hyderpur, Okhla tank Nazafgarh overhead tank, equiped with sophisticated ments check control the qu drinking water right from raw w stage upto the consumers' These laboratories are collec about 250 to 300 water sam every day from their respe zonal areas including rural a check the water quality for its bility and to ensure that n tamination of water takes place ing transmission of water th municipal mains. Mobile labor is also deployed to check the quality in rural areas. As a pr tionary measure service reser are cleaned periodically, complaints are attended pro and people advised not to use low hand pump water for drinc purpose. All shallow hand pumps resettlement colonies have be painted in red colour with indic not fit for drinking. As soon plaints of contamination is rece water samples are immedi checked and in case of any ab mality, water supply to the disconnected and alternate supp made through water tankers. cause of contamination is inve ted and rectified. Thereafter su is restored after flushing the w lines. Through Press Notificat public at large is regularly adv to contact the above laboratories free testing of water quality in c of any complaints.

(c) and (d) In a public interest litigation 1017/1997, the Centra Pollution Contro Board has submitted its report about the pollut raw water quality in the Yamun river upstream of Wazirabad an the Western Yamuna Canal How ever, nothing adverse has been re ported about the drinking wate Supply & Sewerage Disposal Undertaking.